

ITEM:

SUBJECT: City of Loyalton, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sierra County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of a Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Loyalton wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) consists of a series of four aerated lagoons, one settling pond, one small effluent storage lagoon, and nine rapid infiltration basins. Treated wastewater is disposed of in the rapid infiltration basins and by land application to approximately 19.8 acres of cropped land owned by the City. In addition, the City applies disinfected wastewater to approximately 60-acres of pasture owned by another party.

On 16 March 2001, the Regional Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 5-01-069. The WDRs allow a peak wet weather flow rate of 756,000 gallons per day (gpd). The Order does not contain a dry weather flow limitation.

The Findings of the WDRs describe a number of major deficiencies in the Discharger's wastewater system, and therefore the WDRs require the Discharger to submit reports addressing upgrades to the facility. The major reports included a sludge management plan, a wastewater disinfection workplan, an evaluation of wastewater pH, a workplan regarding facility upgrades to comply with the 100-year precipitation storage criterion, and finally, construction of the proposed improvements. It is also noted that the wastewater collection system allows excessive inflow/infiltration (I/I) to enter the WWTP during periods of heavy rain or high groundwater conditions. The extreme I/I flows result in a lack of storage capacity.

ISSUES: The Discharger submitted all the required reports but did not implement the improvements to comply with the 100-year precipitation storage criterion. The Discharger submitted a Master Plan which identified the following needed upgrades to comply with the WDRs:

- a. The collection system is surcharged under extreme peak wet weather flow events caused by excessive infiltration and inflow that occurs during storm events.
- b. The influent pump station has inadequate capacity.
- c. Based on the wastewater percolation rate, the effluent storage lagoon may leak wastewater onto adjoining property and possibly into Smithneck Creek.
- d. The effluent storage and disposal system is not adequate for any years above normal precipitation.

Because the City cannot comply with the storage and disposal requirements contained in WDRs 5-01-069, staff has prepared a Cease and Desist Order (CDO). The CDO requires the City to investigate and

correct wastewater system inadequacies.

The CDO requires the City to submit numerous reports, including: progress reports; a Sampling and Analysis Plan; a Wastewater Application Plan; an I/I Investigation Report of Results; a Contingency Plan; a Preliminary Design Report; a Revenue Plan; a Sanitary Sewer System Operation, Maintenance, Overflow Prevention, and Response Plan; a Background Groundwater Quality Study Report; a Final Design and Construction Schedule; a Report of Waste Discharge (if necessary); and a Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Report.

A draft of the CDO was sent to the City of Loyalton for comments. The City submitted comments to staff on 26 May 2005. Staff and the Discharger have worked together to finalize the scope and timing of the proposed Cease and Desist Order.

This item is uncontested

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

23 June 2005 CVRWQCB Board Meeting  
Coastal Hearing Room-2nd Floor  
Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

24 June 2005 CVRWQCB Board Meeting  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670